TRAUMA CASUALTY ASSESSMENT

RIFLES LIFESAVERS

Tactical Combat Casualty Care

- Care Under Fire
  - "The best medicine on any battlefield is fire superiority"
  - Minimal casualty assessment
  - Immediate treatment of extremity hemorrhage
- Tactical Field Care
  - Rapid trauma assessment and immediate treatment of life-threatening injuries
  - More detailed trauma assessment and stabilization of non life-threatening injuries
- Casualty Evacuation Care
  - Continual casualty assessment

Scene Assessment

- Determine safety of scene
- Determine mechanism of injury
- Determine number of casualties
- Request additional help if necessary

Primary Assessment: ABCDE

- Communicate verbally with casualty
  - Helps establish immediate status of airway, breathing, circulation, and mental status
- Airway
- Breathing
- Circulation
- Disability (Neurologic status)
- Exposure

IMPORTANT!

- When life-threatening injuries are encountered during the primary assessment, stop and perform the necessary life-saving procedure before proceeding
- Failure to do so may result in an otherwise preventable death

Airway

- Attention to manual stabilization of cervical spine if appropriate
- Airway obstructions are often noisy (but not always)
- Suspect airway problems
  - Unconscious
  - Head, face, neck, chest injuries
- Open, clear, and maintain the airway

Breathing

- Look, listen, and fee
- If chest injury and severe difficulty breathing, perform needle chest decompression to relieve tension pneumothorax

Circulation

- Look for severe external bleeding
- STOP THE BLEEDING!
  - Direct pressure
  - Pressure points
  - Tourniquet
- Assess for internal bleeding
  - Check pulses
  - Observe for shock
- Initiate IV fluids

Disability (Neurologic Status)

- Level of consciousness using AVPU scale
  - Alert: Converses spontaneously and appropriately
  - Verbal: Responds to verbal stimuli
  - Painful: Responds to painful stimuli
  - Unresponsive: Unresponsive to any stimuli
- Pupil size
  - Pupils should be equal and constrict vigorously to light stimulus
- Motor function
  - Strength should be normal and equal in all extremities

Exposure

- Remove clothing to expose area of injury
- Do not delay resuscitation to expose injuries
- Keep casualty covered after exposure to avoid hypothermia due to blood loss

Conditions that Require Immediate Transport

- Poor general condition
- Unresponsive
- Responsive but does not follow commands
- Difficulty breathing
- Uncontrolled breathing
- Severe pain

Secondary Trauma Assessment

- Perform more detailed exam of body areas with attention to DCAP-BTLS

- Deformities
- Contusions
- Abrasions
- Penetrating injuries
- Burns
- Tenderness
- Lacerations
- Swelling

Secondary Trauma Assessment: Head to Toe

- Head
- Neck
  - Apply cervical collar if unconscious or midline spinal tenderness
- Chest
- Abdomen
- Pelvis
- Extremities
- Back
  - Log roll casualty to stabilize spine

Prepare to Evacuate

Questions?